

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively allocating or deallocating bandwidth between a first media aggregation manager and a second media aggregation manager, the method comprising:

displaying first graphical representations of ~~said~~ the first media aggregation manager and ~~said~~ the second media aggregation manager, wherein the first and second media aggregation managers are capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of a first user community and a second user community, respectively, the first user community and the second user community ~~communicatively~~ coupled by a plurality of physical paths ~~through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices;~~

displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and the second user community over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the first path;

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and the second user community over a second path of the plurality of physical paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the second path; and

displaying second graphical representations for allocating and/or deallocating bandwidth between the first media aggregation manager and second media aggregation manager based on said displayed first projected link utilization schedule and said displayed second projected link utilization schedule.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising overlaying a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

6-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to;

display first graphical representations of a first media aggregation manager and a second media aggregation manager, the first and second media aggregation managers capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of a first user community and a second user community, respectively, the first user community and the second user community ~~communicatively~~ coupled by ~~the~~ a plurality of physical paths ~~through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices;~~

display a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and the second user community over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the first path;

display a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and the second user community over a second path of the plurality of physical paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the second path; and

display second graphical representations for allocating and/or deallocating bandwidth between the first media aggregation manager and second media aggregation manager based on said first projected link utilization schedule and said second projected link utilization schedule.

25. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 24, further comprising instructions to overlay a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

26-71. (Cancelled)

72. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

73. (Original) The method of claim 72, wherein one or more predetermined factors include one or more of;

- a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;
- total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;
- available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;
- propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the path; and
- physical length of travel between nodes that make up the first path or the second path.

74. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein said instructions further cause said processor to display said first link utilization schedule and said second link utilization schedule of the first path and the second path in a prioritized fashion based upon one or more predetermined factors.

75. (Original) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 74, wherein one or more predetermined factors include one or more of;

- a number of nodes in a path;
- total available bandwidth for a path;
- available communications bandwidth on a path;
- propagation speed between nodes that make up a path; and
- physical length of travel between nodes that make up a path.

76. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively allocating or deallocating bandwidth between a first network device and a second network device, the method comprising:

displaying first representations of ~~said~~ the first network device and ~~said~~ the second network device, the first and second network devices capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of a first group of terminals and a second group of terminals; respectively, the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals ~~communicatively~~ coupled by a plurality of physical paths ~~through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices;~~

displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and the second first group of terminals over a first path of the plurality of physical path, the first projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the first path;

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals over a second path of the plurality of physical path, wherein the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the second path; and

displaying second graphical representations for allocating and/or deallocating bandwidth between the first network device and second network device based on said displayed first projected link utilization schedule and said displayed second projected link utilization schedule.

77. (Original) The method of claim 76, further comprising overlaying a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

78. (Original) The method of claim 76, wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

79. (Original) The method of claim 78, wherein one or more predetermined factors include one or more of;

a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;

total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;

available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;

propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the second path;

and

physical length of travel between nodes that make up the first path or the second path.

80. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively allocating or deallocating bandwidth between a first network device and a second network device, the method comprising:

displaying first graphical representations of ~~said~~ the first network device and ~~said~~ the second network device, the first and second network devices capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of a first group of terminals associated with a first enterprise location and a second group of terminals associated with a second enterprise location, respectively, the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals ~~communicatively~~ coupled by a plurality of physical paths ~~through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices;~~

displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and the group of terminals over a first path of the plurality of paths, the first projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the first path;

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals over a second path of the plurality of physical paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the second path; and

~~displaying second graphical representations for allocating and/or deallocating~~ bandwidth between the first network device and second network device based on said displayed first projected link utilization schedule and said displayed second projected link utilization schedule, wherein said allocating and/or deallocating is performed in response to user input.

81. (Original) The method of claim 80, further comprising overlaying a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

82. (Original) The method of claim 80, wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

83. (Original) The method of claim 82, wherein the one or more predetermined factors include one or more of;

- a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;

- total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;

- available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;

- propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the second path;

and

- physical length of travel between nodes that make up the first path or the second path.

84. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively allocating or deallocating bandwidth between a first network device and a second network device, the method comprising;

displaying first graphical representations of ~~said~~ the first network device at an edge of a first local area network on which a first set of terminals runs a first set of local applications on behalf of which the first network device is configured to act as a signaling and control proxy and ~~said~~ the second network device at an edge of a second local area network on which a second set of terminals runs a second set of local applications on behalf of which the second network device is configured to act as a signaling and control proxy, the first and second network devices capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of ~~a~~ the first ~~group set~~ of terminals and the second ~~group set~~ of terminals, respectively, the first ~~group set~~ of terminals and the second ~~group set~~ of terminals ~~communicatively coupled by a plurality of physical paths through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices;~~

displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first ~~group set~~ of terminals and the second ~~group set~~ of terminals over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the first path;

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first ~~group set~~ of terminals and the second ~~group set~~ of terminals over a second path of the plurality of physical paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the second path; and

~~displaying second graphical representations for allocating and/or deallocating~~ bandwidth between the first network device and second network device based on said displayed first projected link utilization schedule and said displayed second projected link utilization schedule, wherein said allocating and/or deallocating is performed in response to user input.

85. (Original) The method of claim 84, further comprising overlaying a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

86. (Original) The method of claim 84, wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

87. (Original) The method of claim 86, wherein the one or more predetermined factors include one or more of;

- a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;

- total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;

- available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;

- propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the second path;

and

- physical length of travel between nodes that make up the up the first path or the second path.

88. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
displaying the first user community and the second user community;
displaying the plurality of physical paths between the first user community and the second user community.

89. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
displaying the first user community and the second user community;
displaying the plurality of physical paths between the first user community and the second user community.

90. (New) The method of claim 76, further comprising:
displaying the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals;
displaying the plurality of physical paths between the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals.

91. (New) The method of claim 80, further comprising:
displaying the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals;
displaying the plurality of physical paths between the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals.

92. (New) The method of claim 84, further comprising:
displaying the first set of terminals and the second set of terminals;
displaying the plurality of physical paths between the first set of terminals and the second set of terminals.

93. (New) A method for selectively allocating or deallocating bandwidth between a first user community and a second user community, the method comprising:

displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and the second user community over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the first path;

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and the second user community over a second path of the plurality of physical paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for one or more routers associated with the second path; and

displaying second graphical representations for allocating and/or deallocating bandwidth between the first user community and the second user community based on said displayed first projected link utilization schedule and said displayed second projected link utilization schedule.

94. (New) The method of claim 93, further comprising:

overlaying a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

95. (New) The method of claim 93,

wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

96. (New) The method of claim 95, wherein one or more predetermined factors include one or more of:

a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;

total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;

available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;
propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the second path;
or
physical length of travel between nodes that make up the first path or the second
path.

97. (New) The method of claim 93, further comprising:
displaying the first user community and the second user community;
displaying the plurality of physical paths between the first user community and
the second user community.